# CALPEEK

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**BARRING THE UNFORESEEN, THE DEMOS WILL CONTROL THE ASSEMBLY. CRUZ BUSTAMANTE TO BE SPEAKER.**

Editor's note: Although there are still 3-4 key assembly races yet to be decided, by deadline time this past week it was apparent that the Demos had captured at least 41 seats in the lower house. And at a caucus meeting just a day after the big win, Demo selected Fresno Assemblyman Cruz Bustamante (current Demo Caucus Chair) to be the next Speaker. Here's our update & analysis...

...On Nov. 6th, Republicans woke up to the bad news that the Demos had recaptured the State Assembly by a margin of 44-36. The 44, however, is *very soft*. It's likely Lynne Leach(R) will win the **15th AD**, bringing the margin to 43-37. What's not so certain are battles in the **26th AD** (Cardoza-D still leads Berryhill-R); in the **43rd AD** (Wildman-D still leads Geranios-R); and in the **69th AD** (incumbent Jim Morrissey-R clings to a slim lead over Demo Lou Correa, with 46,000 AVs remaining to be counted in Orange Co.). Demos think they'll hold the 43rd AD, but are uncertain about either the 26th or 69th...

...Back to Bustamante. He's a moderate; obviously the first Latino to hold this top job; was a key member of former Speaker Willie Brown's leadership team; has close ties to agriculture; and even has some good GOP friends...

...Folks who helped Bustamante up the ladder from COS to former Assemblyman Bruce Bronzan(D-Fresno) include State Senators Jim Costa, Richard Polanco and Steve Peace. In terms of key people, keep your eyes on Dr. Bill Cavala (a major political strategist for the Demos, with very close links to Senate Leader Bill Lockyer & Bustamante); Dan Eaton (Bustamante's current COS); and Demo campaign consultant Richie Ross...

...The battle for Speaker was really over before it began and sources believe that until just before the caucus vote last week, Bustamante was probably short a few votes. The only real challenger was Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl. There were also a handful of *compromise candidates* (such as Kevin Murray, Wally Knox and Carole Migden) -- waiting in the wings should Kuehl block Bustamante. But that never happened...

...One of the key players in helping Bustamante become Speaker: Assemblyman-elect Don Perata, ex Alameda Co. Supe, with close ties to Lockyer and also a former Waxman/Berman loyalist...

...FYI: The new leadership team may look this way: Antonio Villaraigosa - Majority Leader; Kuehl - Speaker Pro Tem; Perata - Rules Cmt. chair; new Assemblyman-elect Kevin Shelley(S.F.) - Caucus Chair; Migden - Appropriations Cmt. chair; and old hand with a new lease Dick Floyd - Labor Cmt. chair. Just speculation, nothing solid. Stay tuned...

**CAMPAIGN '96: CALPEEK's WINNERS & LOSERS.**

Editor's note: For what it's worth, here is one of your favorite **Calpeek** columns: ***Winners & Losers*** from the Nov. 5th general election. Now sit back and enjoy, weep or scream...

- **Best Overall Calif. Campaign Award** - To the CA Assembly Democrats. Outgoing Demo Leader Richard Katz and *savvy* consultant Darry Sragow stopped the caucus infighting, helped raise the bucks and put together a 41-seat game plan which won back the Assembly for the Demos...

- **Other Big Winners** - Clinton/Gore '96 Calif. campaign chair Tom Umberg and the CDP's Coordinated Campaign...


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● **The Big Upset Award.** To 46th CD candidate Loretta Sanchez(D), who leads incumbent Bob Dornan (R) by 765 votes, with 2,000-4,000 AVs & provisional ballots left. A nice win for campaign mgr. John Shallman; Bill Wachob & The Campaign Group, who handled media; and for pollster Celinda Lake...

● **Longest Night Award** - To soon-to-be former Assembly Speaker Curt Pringle. Pringle also lost big in local Orange Co. elections, backing losing candidates with big bucks. Runner-up: U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan...

● **Wishing It Were '94 (Again) Award** - To CA Republican Party Chairman John Herrington, who is now running for the Chairmanship of the RNC...

● **Wedge Politics Award** - To CA Gov. Pete Wilson(R). His 187/209 *wedge issue* strategy backfired and probably cost the GOP in down-ballot races...

● **Worst Campaign of '96** - Award goes to GOP Assemblywoman Paula Boland of Northridge. Her 21st SD campaign was a disaster from the primary to the general election...

● **911 Rescue Award** - To GOP consultant Wayne Johnson on behalf of Assemblyman Peter Frusetta(R), the Demos top target ("All hat -- lots of cattle")...

● **Survivors Award** - To GOP U.S. Reps. Steve Horn, Frank Riggs and Brian Bilbray...

● **Energizer Bunny Award** - Once again goes to Demo U.S. Rep. George Brown of Colton. He just keeps on winning, winning, winning...

● **Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz Award** - To the NRCC and the CRP for this failed effort to *Kick Vic Out* of the 3rd CD. U.S. Rep. Vic Fazio(D) mashed GOP challenger Tim LeFever(R) by some 26,000 votes...

● **Most Disappointed (Again) Award** - To 24th CD GOP candidate Rich Sybert. Honorable mention: 36th CD candidate Susan Brooks(R); and to 28th AD Demo candidate Lily Cervantes. It's *2 Strikes* for all three candidates...

● **Best Consultant - Candidate(s)** - Award to L.A. based Skelton, Grover & Assoc. Not a perfect night, but damn close to it, with some very tough races. Winners included: Brad Sherman, Adam Schiff, Debra Bowen, Sally Havice & George Brown...

● **CA Initiative KING Award** - Not much dispute here: Goddard/Claussen - 1st Tuesday for their winning campaigns against 214/216(HMO reform) and against 211 (Securities Fraud initiative)...

● **Integrity Award** - To consultant Arnie Steinberg, who was bounced from the YES on 209 campaign just days before the election because he opposed the GOP's effort to hijack 209 and turn it into a wedge issue...

● **Worst Ballot Measure Award** - To 215, the medical use of marijuana initiative. Question: if the idea was so good, why didn't the initiative backers use the *exact language* of the Vasconcellos bill, which passed both in the CA Senate & Assembly???

● **Big Win on Small Budget Award** - To Joel Fox and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Assn. for this upset win on 218. All the endorsements and most of the money were on the NO side. Honorable mention: Hopcraft Communications (YES on 210)...

● **Best Local Campaign Award** - To the Kamber Group (Harvey Englander). Winners included: L.A. Co. Sup-elect Don Knabe and Orange Co. Sup-elect Todd Spitzer. Honorable mentions: Eileen Padberg, for her campaign on behalf of new O.C. Sup.-elect Chuck Smith; and to Sacto-based Townsend, Raimundo, Besler & Usher, who went 6-0 in local ballot measures...

● **Tree Huggers' Revenge** - The Sierra Club and the CA League of Conservation Voters didn't win all their targeted races, but they helped to oust Baker(10th CD) and Seastrand (22nd CD) --- 2 of their top targets...

● **Non-Frivolous PR Award** - To Edelman PR for its work on NO on 211. Honorable mention: To the Calif. Republican Party. STAY TUNED...

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**CAMPAIGN '96: ELECTION POST-MORTEM - PART II.**
Editor's note: Here is Part II of **Calpeek's** analysis of the just concluded Nov. 5th general election...

◆ ***The 209 GOP Screw Up*** - The GOP's hijacking of Prop. 209(CCRI) turned out to be a real political disaster. Sacto PA executive Tony Quinn's L.A. Times op-ed piece said it best: money that the CA Republican Party dumped into 209 to try and make it a wedge issue against Pres. Bill Clinton would have been put to better use for GOP candidates in down-ballot races...

● ***The GOP Blame Game*** - One of the key problems for the GOP in Calif. was a low turnout of Republican voters. Some GOP campaign consultants are very critical of rival consultants for not putting more effort into GOTV operations, especially in some key ***war zone*** areas: San Diego, Southeast L.A. Co., and the Glendale/Pasadena area. But John Nelson, a spokesperson for GOP Speaker Curt Pringle, was quoted in the O.C. Register as saying: *There is no race where even $50,000 would have made a difference. The magnitude of the turnout loss [for the GOP] was too enormous*. Some GOP insiders don't buy that spin...

◆ ***Undecided CA Senate Contests*** - There are two(2) races still to be decided by absentee and provisional ballots. In the 7th SD, GOP Assemblyman Richard Rainey holds a 178 vote lead over Contra Costa Sup. Jeff Smith(D), with about 8,000 AVs/provisionals in Alameda & Contra Costa to be counted. In the 15th SD, GOP Assemblyman Bruce McPherson holds a lead of about 1,078 over former Assemblyman Rusty Areias(D), with about 2,500 AVs from Santa Clara and 25,000 AVs from Santa Cruz & Monterey. The key will be Santa Cruz - a Demo stronghold...

◆ ***Hispanic Voting Power*** - Back in 1970, one well known GOP consultant (sources say it was Stu Spencer) said that the future of the CA GOP could rest with Hispanic voters. And for a while it looked as though Hispanic voters might be tilting toward the GOP - until 187 came along. Hispanics represent 13% of CA's voting population. In '92 the Hispanic turnout was 7%, compared to 10% in '96. How did Hispanics votes in '96? ***75% for Clinton***, 18% for Dole. Today in Calif., 71% of Hispanic voters affiliate with the Demos, compared to 17% with the GOP. 10% are independent and 2% are affiliated with other parties...

◆ ***Dornan's Downfall*** - U.S. Rep. Bob Dornan(R) says he'll challenge Demo Loretta Sanchez's win in the U.S. House. *Dornan's excuse*: he says he lost because of illegal alien voters/voter fraud. We've heard this crap before and even the Orange Co. Registrar Rosalyn Lever said such widespread fraud is unlikely. Key reasons for his defeat: 1) he failed to pay attention to his district or its changing demographics; 2) he totally underestimated Sanchez; 3) he failed to raise the necessary funds to fend off a well-funded challenge; and 4) voters were ready for a change. FYI: happiest GOP consultant in O.C.: Dornan foe Eileen Padberg...

◆ ***The Orange Co. Vote*** - In order for GOP candidates to win Statewide in Calif., the rule of thumb is that these candidates have to carry GOP-vote-rich Orange Co. by 200,000 to 250,000 votes. Bob Dole got 403,207 vs. 295,037 for Clinton = 108,170. FYI: wasn't that O.C. GOP Party Chair Tom Fuentes who said Dole would carry the county by 400,000 votes???

**CAMPAIGN '96: FINAL UPDATE ON LOCAL RACES.**
Editor's note: All 58 counties, many Calif. cities and special districts also held elections Nov. 5th. Last week we reported Supes elections in S.F., L.A. and Orange Counties. This week, a brief recap of some of the other races...

...Stats first. According to some preliminary data from County Supervisors Assn. of CA, there were approximately **175** supervisor posts up for reelection at the beginning of the '96 election cycle. Of the 175, **49** incumbents decided to retire rather than run again (28%). Another **95** incumbent supes were reelected either in March or Nov. 5th (54%). And **25** were defeated for reelection (14%). Four(**4**) races are too close to call; and two(**2**) died prior to the election...

☒ Hot Supervisor races around the State: **Santa Barbara Co.** - Gail Marshall defeated Willy Chamberlin; **Ventura Co.** - Kathy Long defeated Mike Morgan; **Marin Co.** - Steve Kinsey defeated Dotty LeMieux; **Santa Clara Co.** - #3 Milpitas Mayor Pete McHugh defeated former San Jose Councilwoman Patricia Sausedo; #5 Palo Alto Councilman Joe Simitian defeated Cupertino Council-woman Barbara Koppel; **San Bernardino Co.** - #1 Kathy Davis defeated incumbent Marsha Turoci; #3 Dennis Hansberger defeated Bill Lemann...

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☒ Local Ballot Measures: **Santa Clara Co.** - Both Measures A & B (transportation sales tax) won with 78% & 52% respectively; **S.F.** - Measure E (collective bargaining) was mashed - 72% No; Measure B (the de Young Museum) needed a 2/3rds vote but only got 62%; Measure G (district elections in S.F.) won with 57%; **L.A. Co.** - Measure B (campaign reform) won with 75%; **L.A. City** - Measure G (deregulate the Dept. of Water & Power) won with 64%; Measure E (appointment to city Ethics Commission) won with 59%; **Orange Co.** - Measure A (limit supes to 2 terms) won with 79%; **City of Anaheim** - Measure B (to keep the city's hotel/bed tax) won with 74%; **City of Sacramento** - Measure Q (binding arbitration for salary + benefits) won; **San Diego Co.** - Measure A (regional library tax - 2/3rds need) lost with 59%. Stay tuned...

**CA INITIATIVE UPDATE: ARE YOU READY FOR 1998?**

Editor's note: We've held off on some of this info until after the Nov. 5th election, but it's worth noting that we've already got **4 ballot measures** set for the June 1998 ballot. Here's a brief update...

◆ **4 Measures Qualify for 1998 Ballot** - The CA Secretary of State confirms that there are already four (4) measures slated for the June 1998 ballot. These measures include **2** legislative constitutional amendments: 1) SCA 4 (a muni/superior court consolidation measure); 2) SCA 18 (an amendment which would require equal application of the law, regardless of how a county voted on a specific initiative, referendum or bond measure); and **2** initiatives: 3) **Schools. Spending Limits on Administration**, Aka "The 95-5 Initiative," sponsored by Tyrone Vahedi of Children's Rights 2000 ☎(310)475-5157; and 4) **Design & Engineering Services** - Aka *The Competitive Bidding Initiative*. Key sponsor is Professional Engineers in Calif. Govt. --- the official committee goes under the name of Taxpayers for Efficient Govt. This group has hired consultant Steve Hopcraft of Sacto to handle communications...

● ***Son of 3 Strikes*** - 3 Strikes And You're Out author Mike Reynolds of Fresno has been given the OK to circulate his new initiative statute, **Sentencing. Repeat and Multiple Offenders**. If approved, it would reverse a recent court ruling giving judges greater latitude in striking prior convictions in 3 Strike cases. Reynolds needs 433,269 valid signatures by Feb. 2, 1997 to qualify. Cavalier & Associates is handling the petition drive (916)444-8080...

**CALPEEK'S INFOBAHN: POLITICAL SHORT TAKES.**

Editor's note: Here are a few political items worth noting...

■ ***L.A. DA's Race*** - It's not over yet, but close to it. Some 2.2 million ballots have been cast and incumbent DA Gil Garcetti clings to a 3,165 vote lead over challenger John Lynch. About 38,000 AV + provisional ballots remain uncounted. For number crunchers, it means that Lynch needs about 54% of the remaining ballots to overtake and beat Garcetti --- not likely since Lynch is only getting about 51.3% of the AV ballots since election night. On election night, he won the early AVs by a 55% vs. 45% margin. More next week...

■ ***Who Is Larry Gallaher?*** - He's the incumbent Bd. member of the West Basin Muni Water District in L.A. Co. --- and he beat back a challenge from former Calif. Lt. Gov. (and ex-U.S. Congressman) Mervyn Dymally by a margin of 57% to 43%. Consultant Rick Taylor handled Gallaher's campaign...

■ ***Political Irony*** - Just as Bob Dornan's political future is beginning to fade, the guy that Dornan beat for congress in 1984, Jerry Patterson, is making a political comeback. He was elected to the Bd. of Trustees of Coast Community College on Nov. 5th. Stay tuned...

**CALPEEK'S MARKETPLACE NETWORK**

● **FPPC and FEC** Reports Administrator for Westside L.A. political law firm. Strong organizational, financial, and computer skills needed. Candidate should be detail oriented and a self-starter. Experience a plus but will train. Fax resume including salary history to (310)459-8905...

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